
School Street Twin Ballfield Project (2006 - \$69,000)September 10, 2014 Update

After almost 6 years, the Town has finally worked out the multi-year lease of the School Street playing fields with the State Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM). Town Manager Steve Ledoux executed the lease on May 13, 2014. Those of you with a long memory may recall that a 10-year lease with extension rights was authorized by a Special Act in 2008 and was championed by then Senator Pam Resor. DCAM took nearly 6 years to approve the multi-year lease, opting to renew a one-year lease at the end of each calendar year repeatedly for 5 consecutive years, but it has at long last reached a happy conclusion.

The 2006 Twin Ballfield project has been retained for a number of years, as the Town had been actively negotiating the change in lease status with the Commonwealth. The Recreation Department recently polled the sports leagues that supported the 2006 Twin Ballfield project to assess their interest in pursuing the original project as approved for 2006 for \$69,000 – a Little League backstop, Babe Ruth/Softball backstop, and a 75-car parking area. There has been a decline in league enrollment in Youth Baseball and Youth Soccer, whereas enrollment demand has risen for Adult Softball and Youth Lacrosse. We will make a decision about pursuing the project by the end of 2014, at which time I will update the CPC on its status – proceed, or turn back funds and develop a new project for the site.

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-12439/CPC%20minutes%202-23-06.pdf>

NARA Picnic Pavilion (2008 - \$250,000 / 2013 - \$100,000 & Recreation Funds \$130,500)November 1, 2013 Update

The NARA Picnic Pavilion project went out to bid in May 2013 and the qualified low bidder chosen for the project was Stallion Builders, LLC of Nashua, NH. The contracted price for construction is \$437,248.00. The construction is underway. Footings have been excavated and concrete will be poured by late next week, timber frame members will be delivered mid-November and the structure is anticipated to be completed this fall.

August 18, 2014 Update

The NARA Pavilion timber frame was delivered and erected in early December. The installation of roofing, concrete patio & sidewalk, and masonry were held over and completed in the spring. The Picnic Pavilion was ready for use with the opening of NARA Beach on Memorial Day weekend. Electricity, lighting and water service were completed in August. The building has been in continuous use since May for Recreation events, community events and private functions; a great success. I encourage everyone to visit this newest addition to NARA Park.

T.J. O'Grady Skate Park Expansion (2012 - \$210,000 / Recreation Funds \$15,000):November 1, 2013 Update

Upon receiving the 2012 CPA grant for \$210,000 in May 2012, the Skatepark was barricaded for the remainder of the year with the construction of the Lower Fields driveway, parking lot and playing fields. This CPA grant was utilized to cover \$110,000 toward the construction of 11 parking spaces and infrastructure at the new parking facility that abuts the Skatepark. That spring (2012), my department received negative feedback from the office of Easternboarder's president, Acton resident Tabor Coates, warning me about continuing to do business with the company American Ramp/Hardcore (AR/H) that we had hired to produce the conceptual design of the expanded Skatepark. Our concerns about this firm's past business practices caused me to put the conceptual design completion on hiatus. During the Skatepark's closure that summer, my department met onsite with a variety of skatepark design companies, including Action Sports Design/Stantec (ASD/S), Pillar Design, and Paprocki Design, to discuss their project portfolios and get their feedback about our project.

Once the Skatepark reopened in spring 2013, the driveway and parking lot were accessible and my objectives were:

- 1) repair existing Skatepark ramps that were in disrepair (\$11,690).
- 2) Do a complete graffiti cleanup of the site (\$2,860).
- 3) Formulate and distribute the RFP for designing the expanded Skatepark (\$15,000).

I received approval in June to fund these initiatives with Recreation Department funds totaling \$29,550. In concluding our contract with AR/H, I enlisted the help of Town Counsel in order to include the AR/H conceptual design in the Skatepark expansion RFP, which went out to five Skatepark design companies in August. After reviewing two proposals that we received in response, we are negotiating a contract with our recommended designer, ASD/S. We anticipate developing a new conceptual and engineered design over the next two months and putting the project out for construction bidding in spring 2014.

August 18, 2014 Update

The Town's contract with ASD/S was signed in February 2014, after a period of negotiation. The Natural Resources Department (Tom Tidman, Cathy Fochtman, Melissa Rier) held a series of meetings with the ASD/S design team through the spring and summer, including an onsite user meeting to gather feedback from skateboarders in May. A new conceptual design includes a two-phase construction plan:

Phase I - Skate Bowl and Phase II - Skate Plaza.

A public meeting to unveil the design is set for Wednesday, September 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Acton Public Safety Facility. Announcements have been sent to the public, to interested committees and boards, and to the Town of Boxborough. Feedback will be gathered and engineered design plans will result, to be incorporated into a construction bid package for Phase I. Phase I will be funded with remaining \$100,000 from the 2012 CPA funds. Recreation will apply to CPA in November for funding the construction of Phase II.

Elm Street Tennis Court & Playground (2013 - \$75,000 / Equipment Donation \$25,000):November 1, 2013 Update

The Elm Street Tennis courts were resurfaced and relined in September 2013 by Vermont Tennis Surfacing Company, who also completed a similar resurfacing of the Elm Street basketball courts this August at the Douglas School. Having obtained quotations, I am contracting Lazaro Paving to pour a concrete sidewalk and pad under the Elm Street playground picnic shelter, which leads to the playground. I am presently obtaining quotations for the installation of the playground structures, surfacing and fencing.

August 18, 2014 Update

The concrete patio and sidewalk was poured in spring and the playground installation is occurring this fall.

NARA Concession and Comfort Station Design (2013 - \$25,000 / Donated Services \$5,000)August 18, 2014 Update

Natural Resources contracted Office of Michael Rosenfeld (OMR) in August 2013 to complete a conceptual design. OMR donated \$5,000 of services toward the project. A design team comprised of Natural Resources (Tom Tidman, Cathy Fochtman), Mike Gowing (Board of Selectmen), Lauren Richardt (Miracle League of Massachusetts), and George Dimakarakos (Stamski & McNary) met with OMR architects Leigh Sherwood and Bonnie Peters August – November 2013. The team came to consensus on one of several design concepts. The design team will be meeting this fall to discuss next steps.

Basketball Court Renovation – Goward and Gardner Playgrounds (2014 - \$76,000)

The basketball renovation project will get underway this fall.

NARA Improvements (2014 - \$15,175)

The installation of two shade structures at the playground and beach and security improvement at the bathhouse will begin this fall.

Goward Playground (2012 – \$150,000 Town Meeting Appropriation, \$66,000 Friends of the Playground Fundraising Campaign)

Although not funded by CPA, it is noted that the Goward Playground installation was completed in spring 2014 and had a Grand Opening on May 17, 2014.

<http://acton.wickedlocal.com/article/20140522/News/140528606>

